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No. XX.

MAGNETIC GUARD FOR NEEDLE-POINTERS.

The Thanks of the Society were this session voted to Mr. A. WESTCOTT, for his MAGNETIC GUARD for persons employed in POINTING NEEDLES.

ON the 27th March, 1817, Mr. Westcott appeared before the Committee of Mechanics, to exhibit and explain an invention of his for the relief of persons employed in needle-pointing. It consisted in a number of bar magnets, smeared with oil, placed in a frame behind the grindstone, for the purpose of detaining, by magnetic attraction, the particles of steel abraded in the process of grinding, and the earthy particles, by the glutinous property of the oil.

Mr. W. stated that he had constructed an apparatus on the above plan, and had sent it to Mr. Hemming, needle-manufacturer at Red-ditch in Warwickshire, for trial. The farther consideration of the subject was postponed, the committee being desirous of awaiting the result of the experiment at Red-ditch.

On the 7th May, 1822, Mr. Abraham's magnetic guard for dry-grinders was taken into consideration. In the course of the examination the proceedings above recited concerning Mr. Westcott were read, and no farther intelligence having been received from that gentleman, the secretary was directed to write to him on the subject. On inquiry, however, it appeared that Mr. Westcott had quitted

his former residence (the house having been burnt down), and the committee being able to obtain no trace of him, the proceedings respecting Mr. Abraham's invention were brought to a conclusion, and a reward was voted to him.— See vol. xl.

This circumstance coming to the knowledge of Mr. Westcott, he addressed a letter to the secretary requesting the Society to proceed with their investigation of his invention. This being acceded to, Mr. W. appeared before the committee, but was unable to give any farther account of the matter than that he had sent his machine, seven years ago, to Mr. Hemming, who had promised to make use of it, but whether such trial was ever made he does not know, having never made any farther inquiry.